

wherein the ratchet extension surrounds the ratchet extension shaft without contact between the ratchet extension sleeve and the ratchet extension shaft;

wherein the ratchet extension sleeve and the ratchet extension shaft are separate elements, wherein the relative position of ratchet extension sleeve and ratchet extension shaft are defined by the respective mountings on the ratchet handle and on the ratchet head.

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 6, 11 to 13, 17, 19 to 22 and 27 to 32 continue to be under consideration.

The Office Action refers to *Claim Objections*

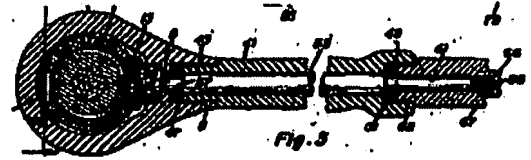
1. Claim 32 is objected to because of the following informalities: the period at the end of the line 11 should be changed, e.g., to";". Claim 21, "ratchet extension shaft (102)" should be changed to, -ratchet extension shaft (202)-. Appropriate correction is required.

Applicants are amending claims 21 and 32 to obviate the objection.

The Office Action refers to Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. Claims 1, 3, 5 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lampke, US Patent No. 2,808,749.

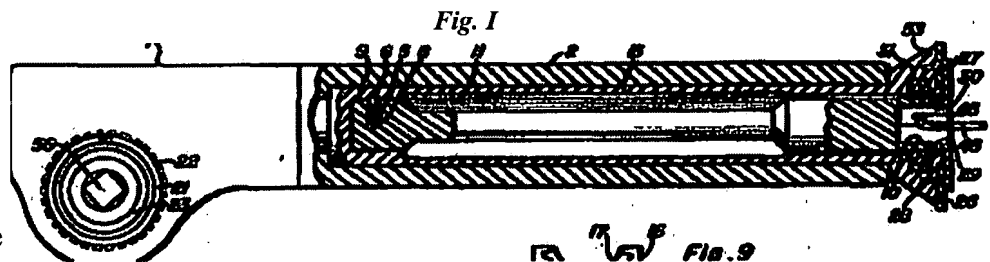
Lampke discloses all the limitations of the above claims 1, i.e., power wrench comprising a handle containing a motor (e.g., 67); a ratchet extension (41) attached to the handle; a ratchet extension shaft (55) attached to the handle and a ratchet head (1); and the ratchet head (1) attached to the extension and the shaft, wherein the extension and the shaft are removable; a plurality of removable extension (41, 67, 81) and a plurality of removable shafts (55, 77) each separately removable.



Applicant respectfully disagrees. Applicant submits that the reference Lampke fails to clearly show the extension principle of the applicant.

4. Claims 19-22 and 27-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hendrickson, US Patent No. 3,430,510.

Hendrickson discloses all the limitations of the above claims 19, i.e., a ratchet handle



(48) containing an air drive motor, an air line connection (inherent) furnished to the ratchet handle; a ratchet extension sleeve (2) having a first end and having a second end, wherein the first end of the ratchet extension sleeve is attached to the ratchet handle; a ratchet extension shaft (11) having a first end and a second end, wherein the ratchet extension shaft (11) is disposed substantially parallel to the ratchet extension sleeve (2), and wherein the ratchet extension shaft (11) is unsupported apart from support furnished to the first end of the ratchet extension shaft and the second end of the ratchet extension shaft; wherein the first end of the ratchet extension shaft (11) is attached to a drive shaft (54) disposed at the ratchet handle (48); a ratchet head (1) having a socket mount (56) and having attached the second end of the ratchet extension sleeve (2) and having a ratchet head drive shaft (49) attached the second end of the ratchet extension shaft (11), wherein the ratchet extension shaft is held exclusively by the drive shaft and by the ratchet head drive shaft.

Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention discloses a ratchet extension, whereas the reference O. Hendrickson teaches an angle head extension for wrenches.

The Office Action refers to Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103.

6. Claims 2 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over anyone of Lampke, Hendrickson and Frenkel.

Each of the above mentioned prior art meets the limitations of the above claims except for disclosing an extension and a shaft having a length between 6 to thirty inches. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use an extension and a corresponding shaft having a length of approximately 6-30", since it has been held that changing shape, dependent on work-piece parameters, involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Stevens*, 101 US PQ 284(CCPA1954).

Applicant respectfully submits that there is nothing suggested in the references, which would direct to an extension of 6" to 30".

7. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lampke.

Lampke meets all of the limitations of claim 6, except for disclosing a plurality of disclosing the range or a specific size of the extensions, modification within the knowledge of one of ordinary skill in the art dependent on work-piece/operational parameters as indicated above.

The reference Lampke teaches a n adapter for a power wrench, whereas in contrast the present application is concerned with a ratchet extension.

8. Claims 12,13 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lampke in view of Hendrickson.

Lampke meet the limitations of the above claims, except for disclosing an air power wrench. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a pneumatic wrench as taught by Hendrickson, 04:56 in adapting the invention for application requiring pneumatic drive.

Lampke in view of Hendrickson disclose the types of connections having similar constructions between the head and the handle.

Nevertheless of allegedly similar construction between head and handle of the reference Lampke, Lampke teaches an adapter and not a ratchet extension.

Claims 1 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious Frenkel (5,709,136).

Frenkel discloses all of the limitations of claims 1 and 11, including "an area" between the sleeve and the shaft completely filled with air, however, in the alternative eliminating the bearings, to save manufacturing costs, would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

According to the Abstract, line 9, the reference Frankel teaches an adapter and not a ratchet extension.

Reconsideration of all outstanding rejections is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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